Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-20 DRC-01 /170 W $\,$

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EEC, IT, MT

SUBJECT: EC-MALTA RELATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6171

- 1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP MARTINEZ (OIC, EC EXTERNAL RELATIONS) INFORMED EMBOFF NOVEMBER 5 THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOI POLICY OF EXTENDING ALL POSSIBLE AID TO MALTA, ITALY STRONGLY SUPPORTS EC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GOM ON SAME TERMS AS EC ASSISTANCE TO MAHGREB COUNTRIES. HE ALSO SAID THAT GOI EXPECTS ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED (ONE WAY OR THE OTHER) AT NOVEMBER 5-6 FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING.
- 2. A SECOND CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN EC-MALTA RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO MARTINEZ, INVOLVES EXPORT OF POTATOES FROM MALTA TO EC. ITALY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAVORS SPECIAL EC TREATMENT FOR MALTESE POTATOES IN FORM OF SMALL

ANNUAL IMPORT QUOTA. MARTINEZ INDICATED SOME OTHER EC MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY GERMANY, RELUCTANT TO GRANT SUCH SPECIAL TREATMENT TO MALTA. HE BELIEVES EC WILL PROBABLY APPROVE SMALL QUOTA FOR IMPORTS INTO SELECTED EC COUNTRIES (E.G., ITALY).

3. COMMENT: MARTINEZ COMMENTS IMPLY THAT ITALY COULD ACCEPT, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, BRITISH VETO OF "SOFT"FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MALTA. GOI WOULD MUCH PREFER EC ASSISTANCE, AS VERY TIGHT DOMESTIC BUDGETARY SITUATION WOULD PROBABLY PRECLUDE MORE THAN TOKEN BILATERAL ITALIAN ASSISTANCE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EXPORTS, BUDGETS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, IMPORT QUOTAS

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